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## CONDEMN EFFORTS TO COMPROMISE CLAYHOLE CASES

### State Press Aroused by Latest Scandal Involving Politics and the Courts.

The Louisville Times and Courier-Journal have again found it necessary to give pointed publicity to the Breathitt county murder and conspiracy cases. Judge Hurst was elected Circuit Judge in that district by a smaller vote than Clayhole precinct would have given against him if the ballots had not been destroyed on the morning of the election. He was insisting upon trying the men who conspired to do this dastardly job, in which four men were killed. The Courier-Journal prevented this by exposing this second chapter to the state. Then the cases were moved to Boyd county, which was satisfactory to Judge Hurst. The rulings in the trial of part of the defendants there are of such a trend, and propositions following the trial are so brazen and astounding, that the large newspapers are giving the situation vigorous editorial attention. The Times says:

"In this public way The Times respectfully calls to your attention the Clayhole murder trials. It regards your membership as one of the chief protectors of the law and, through the law, of the state's good name. It submits to you that the incidents leading up to the final revelation of attempted 'compromise' and miscarriage of justice in these trials call for an investigation which will courageously and without favor establish the facts in these cases concerning judges, litigants, prosecutors, defense attorneys and witnesses and, if necessary, will institute impeachments before the Legislature.

"If the State Bar Association shall signalize its Louisville meeting, beginning today, by the appointment of a commission so constituted as to make a real inquiry, then this meeting will take rank as one of the most important assemblages ever held in Kentucky.

The whole effort in the Clayhole cases—an effort moreover which has not met a strong bar or bench in resistance—has been to call off all reckoning of the election battle in which four men were killed. Prevented by the press from obtaining a dismissal of the cases at Jackson; and then prevented from having the cases tried by the judge who was the direct beneficiary of the election in which the murders occurred, the political sinister forces trying to cover up the murders have worked unceasingly to achieve the same result in the changed venue of Boyd county. On the stage the puppets have been dancing, but the wires attached to them have been pulled by strong and ruthless hands beneath.

"The following paragraph from the Associated Press dispatch today not only justifies a suspicious attitude toward the litigation, but gives the State Bar Association every basis for an inquiry: Mr. Watkins said that . . . A. E. Patton said he could arrange a compromise if the defendants would agree. If Musick would not agree, Patton suggested that they (the defendants) discharge Musick; that he knew what he was talking about and that the compromise could be made. He further stated that we should make a motion and ground for a new trial, but not have it acted upon until he could see Judge Halbert."

"These murders arose wholly out of politics. The fight in the state in 1921 was for the control of the State Senate. The Republicans centered their efforts upon the election of Mitch Crain, in the Breathitt county district. The Clayhole precinct has a small but large democratic majority, and if its ballots could be destroyed the chances for Crain's election and subsequent control of the State Senate were excellent. The polling place was raided, the ballots were destroyed, murder was done on both sides; and, while the violence did not defeat the Democratic candidate for the Senate, the elimination of the precinct returns aided materially in the election of the Republican Circuit Judge.

"From that time forward the indictments and trials growing out of this case have been surrounded with indications that a sinister movement is afoot to protect not only the murderers, but by obtaining their dismissal, to protect those who sent the armed men to the polls and thus were responsible for the murders. Only the defense counsel, Mr. Musick, now seems to stand athwart the effecting of the same 'compromise' at Catlettsburg which public opinion prevented at Jackson. The switching of the Democratic defendants to first trial position, and the addition by the Boyd county grand jury a conspiracy indictment, was followed by the conviction of the Democrats. The scene was thus perfectly set for a renewal of the proposal that the whole Clayhole murder affair be 'forgotten' and everybody sent home free. The rulings of Judge Halbert refusing to permit testimony concerning the destruction of the ballots; requiring a conspiracy trial of the Democratic defendants; and sustaining an objection to a conspiracy trial of the Republican defendants, are part of the record which should attract the attention of the State Bar Association.

"This situation, men and women of the State Bar Association, affects justice, the state's good name, public order and the public conscience. The political interests of neither side are worthy of a moment's consideration. A strong committee appointed now for the purpose of observing the future proceedings in this case, and making an inquiry—if circumstances continue to justify one—will be a real contribution to the Commonwealth.

Later the Times had the following editorial:

The public is officially advised by the State Bar Association, answering a request of this nature from The Times, that it has a standing committee empowered to observe, review and, if necessary, to investigate such proceedings as the trial of the Clayhole murder cases. The Times is unofficially advised, and hereby notifies the public, that this committee is keeping a very close eye on the Clayhole cases and that the matter of a possible investigation has been discussed seriously more than once since the lawyers of the state assembled here. Should the proposed 'compromise' go through this committee, The Times is unofficially informed, will take the desired action, and any prominent politicians who may be hiding behind the defendants in these cases and promoting the compromise idea in the desire to remain in the state will be brought to the surface of the affair. All this is most reassuring and in the sort of activity which the public expects of the State Bar Association.

## Son Kills Father in Greenup County

Greenup, Ky., July 1.—George Cook today lies dead as a result of a bullet fired from the gun of his own son. The shooting which occurred about four o'clock in the afternoon was the result of a family quarrel in which Cook, brandishing a revolver, threatened to kill his entire family. His son, Thomas, aged 25, secured a gun and in the subsequent trouble, shot his father to death. The bullet took effect directly over the eyes. Cook dropped dead instantly.

The shooting took place at the Cook homestead at Rocky Ford Bridge about ten miles south of this place. The dead man has but recently been released from the state penitentiary. He has a record of having killed three men and is alleged to have been drunk at the time he was shot today.

The son, Thomas, who did the shooting is said to bear an excellent reputation. Up to a late hour last night he had not been arrested, but the authorities anticipate no trouble, as they expect the boy to voluntarily surrender.

## WAYNE ROAD BOND ELECTION CALLED

At a session held Monday the Wayne county court received petitions calling for good roads issue of \$150,000 for Lincoln district, and, finding the petition good and sufficient ordered the election for August 8.

This election comes as a sequel to an offer by the State Road Commission to supply the additional \$150,000 necessary for the completion of a road running the entire length of Lincoln district, and forming an important link in the Ohio River-Bluefield highway.

Sixteen petitions were sent out by friends of the movement. With only twelve of these returned when the court met more than the necessary number of signatures had been received.

The willingness of the voters to sign the petitions was taken as an indication of friendly sentiment for the project. The road in question will follow Twelve Pole river to a point south of Dunlow, and thence will cross the mountain between Twelve Pole and Tug rivers, and will follow the Tug river valley to the Mingo county line.

## Greenup County Votes \$200,000 For Roads

Greenup, Ky., July 1.—Greenup county decided today by a majority of approximately 1000 votes to issue \$200,000 in road and bridge bonds.

It is reported that a very light vote was cast and there was seemingly but little opposition throughout the county.

The funds are to be used for road and bridge building in connection with money appropriated by the state for the use of the county in the event of the issuance of the bonds.

## HURST SPECIAL JUDGE.

Judge Samuel Hurst of Beattyville was designated by Governor Morrow to hear the suit of the Intersouthern Life Insurance Company for a receiver for W. W. Eubanks, Sr., which has been filed in the Montgomery circuit court. The litigants were to appear before Judge Hurst at Beattyville on July 5.

## RAILROAD SHOPMEN STRIKE.

The railroad shopmen of the United States voted to strike and a great many of them quit work July 1. The trackmen also are considering a strike. The railroads say they can keep up repairs sufficiently to continue regular operations. They are offering permanent employment to new men.

## BREATHITT MAN WINS.

In a contest conducted by the publishers of "Our Young People," Nashville, Tenn., for the best Worship Program for a young people's department, Mr. Peter Walker of Quicksand, Breathitt county won the prize which was \$5.00.

## BIG SANDY NEWS AGAIN WINS AS BEST NEWSPAPER

### First Prize Awarded by Kentucky Press Association in Annual Session.

## KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION, DANVILLE, KY.

The Big Sandy News, Louisa, Kentucky Gentlemen:

I am enclosing herewith check for \$35.00, it being the amount of the first prize offered in the newspaper contest which took place at the meeting of the Kentucky Press Association June 30, 1922, at Crab Orchard Springs, Ky., your paper being declared the winner by the judge, Prof. M. V. Atwood, of Cornell University. I am also sending under separate cover a certificate, showing that the Big Sandy News is the best paper in Kentucky. Please accept my heartiest congratulations.

Yours very truly,  
J. CURTIS ALCOCK  
Sec'y-Treas. K. P. A.

Big Sandy Against the World!

Pardon us for letting out this familiar local whoop in connection with a semi-personal matter, but it seems to fit the occasion so well that we can not keep it back.

The Big Sandy News has again won first prize in a contest put on by the Kentucky Press Association to determine which is the best local newspaper in Kentucky.

The annual meeting of the State Press Association was held at Crab Orchard Springs last Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The award was made on Friday by Prof. M. V. Atwood, of Cornell University, New York, who is a trained newspaper man. He was selected as judge of the contest, being an outsider and a stranger to all Kentucky newspaper men.

The contest for this year was proposed at the mid-winter meeting of the Kentucky Press Association held at Lexington during the last week of December, 1921, by Prof. Enoch Green of the Department of Journalism University of Kentucky. He personally offered cash prizes of \$35 to the winner, \$15 to the second best, and \$10 to the paper rated third. The Association appointed a committee to work out the details of the contest and the points and percentages under which the grading should be done. All newspapers in the State were given a copy of the plan. It was announced that early in June an issue of some week in April or May would be called for. No newspaper would have any idea as to what week would be chosen.

When the call came on June 1 it was for three issues, April 21st and 28th and May 12th. These copies were sent to Prof. Atwood, who worked out the matter before the Association met on June 29th. The copies of the contesting papers were on exhibit at the Association.

The rules laid down by the Press Association provided scoring by points for the various features making up the papers. In his report Prof. Atwood says:

"After I had completed the judging on the point basis, I then went over the papers in a somewhat different way, and it pleased me to see that it made no difference in the ranking of the prize winners."

The Anderson News, Keen Johnson editor, won the second prize, and the Oldham Era was awarded third prize. The latter paper is edited by Mr. Dawson, president of the Press Association this year.

Naturally, the office force of the Big Sandy News, those who labor day after day, week in and week out, to make and keep this paper good enough to stand at the head of the list in Kentucky, and considerable gratification in winning the first prize again. The honor has an added value when bestowed as the judgment of a man of Prof. Atwood's attainments.

A goodly share of the honor is due our large and faithful staff of correspondents, and we take pleasure in acknowledging this fact just here.

And we want Louisa and Lawrence county, and the Big Sandy Valley, to feel that this victory is theirs also. A newspaper is not strictly a private enterprise; it is a semi-public institution, or should be. Every community that is to progress must have the service that only a good newspaper can give. Therefore the success or failure of a newspaper is a matter of importance to the entire public within the limits of its field of labor.

There was a day, not very far distant, (and perhaps not yet entirely obliterated) when the mountains of Kentucky were lightly regarded by other parts of the State. If the Big Sandy News, established and continuously published by natives, has helped somewhat to correct those erroneous ideas and bring about a greater degree of respect for the mountain people, we have our reward.

This paper has held first prize since 1912. The award this year was made

on a more comprehensive basis than heretofore.

Twelve papers besides the winners were awarded honorable mention. Among the number is the Paintsville Herald, also a Big Sandy newspaper, published by a native.

Once more, all together:

Big Sandy Against the World!

## MISS CHARLIE WATTS SWIMS OHIO RIVER

Miss Charlie Watts, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Watts of Huntington swam the Ohio river at Wiles beach Sunday afternoon, one of the first, if not the first, girl of her age to do so in that city.

Miss Watts has been an expert swimmer for about four years, and did not make the attempt before only because of the refusal of her parents. She was followed by a boat but reached the opposite side before it could overtake her.

## L. W. ADKINS DIES IN WAYNE COUNTY

L. W. Adkins, 62, a well known resident of Wayne county, died Friday, June 30, after a short illness. He is survived by his wife and five children, Earl, Dorothy, Ray, Vivian and Ruth, also by his mother, Mrs. Octavia Adkins (two brothers and eight sisters). Funeral services were held at the home Saturday morning at ten o'clock. Interment in the Bowen cemetery.

## U. S. Engineers Open New Office

The Huntington, W. Va., Herald-Dispatch says:—The central office of the U. S. Engineers was opened here Saturday morning, when offices at Cincinnati, O., Catlettsburg, Ky., and Wheeling, W. Va., were closed. This office will have charge of the government engineering work from dam No. 12 to dam No. 32. To curtail expenses the office has been opened at the vantage point, Huntington and will bring, possibly, 25 or 30 employees to the city. Work on the upper dams has been almost wholly completed, assistant engineer B. F. Thomas, at present in charge of the office, stated yesterday, with the exception only of dam No. 27, near here, dam No. 30 at Greenup, Ky., and dam No. 32, at Vanceburg. Dams on the lower river will be completed within six years, Mr. Thomas predicted.

Major Malcolm Elliot, who has been at Wheeling will have charge of the local office.

## REGISTRATION LAW KILLED BY COURT

The Court of Appeals has decided that the new law requiring registration of all Kentucky voters July 1st and 11th is unconstitutional. It fails to provide for sufficient special registration and for certain features covering the years following this, in the opinion of the court.

The decision shows the way to a proper registration law and the next Legislature, no doubt, will cure the defects and enact the law. Something of this kind is necessary to make fair elections possible in Louisville, Covington, and the larger coal mining centers where thousands of illegal votes are cast by the process of robbing and by voting men who are not legally qualified. A law that will prevent such frauds is favored by everybody who wants fair elections.

## Pikeville Laundry Destroyed by Fire

Fire destroyed the Sanitary Steam Laundry at Pikeville at 1:30 p. m. Friday. The fire caught in the woodwork where the smokestack passes through the ceiling and was carried rapidly to all parts of the building by the wind. The rapidity of the flames was added to by the fact the woodwork of the building was pine. The north and west walls of the building which were of concrete were crumbled by the excessive heat. The laundry was one of the best in the country and had recently been equipped with machinery and appliances valued at \$20,000. It was located at the north on Fifth street and was owned jointly by E. S. Shurlett and W. K. Elliott. The total loss is estimated at \$25,000 with \$12,600 insurance. The building was only recently inspected and approved by the state fire marshal. Nineteen young women and several young men were on the payroll at the laundry.

The general store of Brit Potter at Yenger was destroyed by fire at 11 p. m. Sunday. Mr. Potter carried a large quantity of goods in stock, the value of which has been estimated at \$30,000. The cause of the fire was unknown.

## ANOTHER PETITION TO MOVE WAYNE COUNTY SEAT

L. K. Vinson, representing Lincoln, Grant and Butler districts, has filed a petition for another vote to move the county seat of Wayne to Kenova. The county court deferred action until July 12th.

## WORLD'S S. S. CONVENTION.

Mr. W. J. Vaughan, State Sunday School field worker, arrived home last Saturday from Kansas City, Mo., where he had been attending the International Sunday School Convention. Over 7000 delegates were present from all parts of the world.

## COMPLETES 50 YEARS TEACHING AT 81



There are very few persons in Little Rock, Ark., who have not come in contact with this very successful woman. She is Mrs. B. B. Sterling, who now at 81 years of age has just completed fifty consecutive years of teaching in the public schools there. She started in 1872. It is estimated 6,000 pupils have been in her classes.

## City Council Holds Meeting July Fourth

The city council met Tuesday night with Mayor L. F. Wellman presiding, councilmen Claude Wilson, Lefe Cooksey, Charter Wellman and R. C. Burton present.

The minutes showed that the 1922 tax book had been turned over to Marshal Cyrus. The total taxes thereon are \$9562.26, and he reported about \$2100 collected.

An ordinance was enacted conforming to the new State law prohibiting persons from appearing on the streets in bathing costumes.

The section of the city recently cut off was taken back into the city limits. This is a boundary from Lick creek to Jones branch and to a line near the waterworks reservoir.

Upon application of two or three citizens an order was made to drill and equip a public water well in the vicinity of the Masonic Hall.

The state law regulating automobiles, trucks, etc., a very lengthy document, was enacted into a city ordinance.

The city hall lot was ordered to be opened for the use of country people desiring to hitch their horses. A hitching rack will be built.

John Johns was appointed a special policeman or deputy marshal without salary.

Claude Wilson asked that an order be made requiring him to build a sidewalk adjacent to his home in Italy. There is a dispute about the property line, as the survey made by L. E. Wallace shows that Mr. Wilson is on the street six or seven feet. Wilson says the starting point for the survey is not correct and that he is not on the street. Mr. Garred, city attorney, objected to making an order to build a sidewalk on this disputed ground because of the danger in losing the city's rights some time in the future by this action, and also that he regards it as a bad precedent. No action was taken.

Wm. Bellomy Dies After Long Illness

William Bellomy, 45 years old, of 1538 Jefferson avenue, Huntington, died early Thursday of last week after a long illness.

He was born in Hubbardstown, W. Va., and had made his home in Huntington for several years.

He is survived by three sisters: Mrs. E. K. Meredith of Akron, O. Mrs. A. J. Jackson of Fort Gay, W. Va., and Mrs. J. L. Selbee of Huntington; one brother, D. E. Bellomy also of 1538 Jefferson avenue.

The body was taken to Hubbardstown Saturday morning for funeral service. Interment at the Strother cemetery at that place.

## Mrs. George Picklesimer Dies After Long Illness

The death of Mrs. George Picklesimer occurred on Thursday morning at 10:30 o'clock at her home in Louisa after an illness of more than a year. She was 64 years old. The funeral will be held at the M. E. Church at 10 o'clock Friday morning, conducted by Rev. John Cheap and Rev. H. B. Hewlett.

As this paper was ready for the press at the time the death occurred a more extended notice will be deferred until next week.

## STANDARD OIL BUYS A LOT.

The Standard Oil Company has purchased the lot at the north side of Louisa formerly owned by the Louisa Canning Company and will erect a storage plant thereon.

## DEATH OF MRS. SAM BERRY.

Mrs. Sam Berry died last Sunday at her home at Irad, after a lingering illness of tuberculosis. She leaves a husband and several children.

The burial took place on Tuesday.

## TAX COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

D. M. Curnutte, county tax commissioner, has moved his office to the grand jury room of the court house in Louisa.

## DASTARDLY DEED CAUSES LOSS OF TWO MEN'S LIVES

### Johnson County Coal Mine the Scene of a Fatal Explosion.

Paintsville, Ky., June 30.—William Helton, 43, and Gus Smith, 32, coal loaders; both of Morgan county, were instantly killed in an explosion in Thekla mine.

Both were farmers who, having their crops planted, had just arrived for work in the mines to make extra money for large families.

During the night a coal cutting machine had been loaded with high explosives by unknown parties, the arrangement being such that the charge would be set off when the electric current was connected at the beginning of work.

John Vanhosen and Claud Preston, operators of the machine, entered the mine and coupled the wires. Both were far enough away from the machine to sustain only minor injuries, but the two loaders were close by the machine.

Had the explosion been a few minutes later a large number probably would have been killed.

The tragedy follows warnings received by mine officials that the mine would be blown up. A careful lookout has been kept for explosives, but the placing of it in a machine was not suspected.

A strike has been in progress for several months, but enough diggers have been available to keep the mine in operation.

The day previous Gus Butler was fired upon and Urchill Daniel was rocked as they went to work.

The damage to the mine by the fatal explosion is placed at \$5,000. Doors and tracks were blown to pieces. On account of the poisonous gas thrown off, men could not enter the mine for several hours.

## Prof. Wm. C. McClure is Dangerously Ill

At Fulton, Missouri, on Wednesday last week, William C. McClure, Superintendent of the Missouri School for the Deaf, was operated on for appendicitis, since which date he has been in a serious condition, so critical that his father and mother, Prof. and Mrs. G. M. McClure of the Kentucky School for the Deaf, Danville, Ky., were summoned to his bedside. They took with them Dr. Paul Y. Tupper, a noted specialist of St. Louis, Mo., called in consultation with Fulton physicians.

Supt. McClure is a nephew of Hon. R. C. McClure and Mrs. T. J. Snyder of Louisa and these relatives have been kept informed as to the young man's condition since the operation, and are today, for the first time, in receipt of encouraging news, the last telegram stating that he "is better, outlook more favorable."

The NEWS has an interesting sketch of this young man for next week. It was received too late for this issue.

## Nine Pike County Men Held in Jail

Nine men from Pike county whose sentences in the state penitentiary totaled forty years, were brought to Catlettsburg Friday evening and lodged in the county jail for safe keeping.

The men received their sentences at the recent session of Pike county circuit court. They were being taken to the state penitentiary at Frankfort by Sheriff Johnson and his deputies. They left Catlettsburg early Saturday morning.

Three of the men had been convicted of murder. They were Jim Elam, sentenced to six years William May, fourteen years and Kendall Arnett, twenty years. Glen Batcalf, on a charge of forgery had received a two years sentence. John Seaf, charge not known, had also received two years.

Others were, Walter McCown, house breaking, one year, Jim McCown, housebreaking, one year, Wattle Workman, housebreaking, one year, and Robert Newsom, housebreaking, one year.—Ashland Independent.

## GREASY CREEK FIELD RESUMES WORK

Pikeville, June 30.—The McKinney Steel Company resumed work yesterday in Greasy creek coal field of Pike county following a thirteen month shut down. The company it is said has closed options on a number of valuable tracts of land. This plant is an extensive one and taps a large territory of excellent coal. Just across the hill from Greasy creek are the Marrowbone mines of the same company at Wolfpit.

## MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Riley Davis, 25, to Josie Williams, 21, of Webb.

John H. Fitch, 23, to Forna Blackburn, 18, of Stone.

Paul Colson Childers, 17, to Penolia Wray, 14, of Richardson.

Lonzo McKinney, 26, to Nellie Thornhill, 23, of Louisa.

## BYRON MARTIN DIES.

The death of Byron Martin occurred at his home near Busseyville on Monday night of this week after an illness of only a few days. He was about 82 years old and was a good citizen. Burial took place near the home.